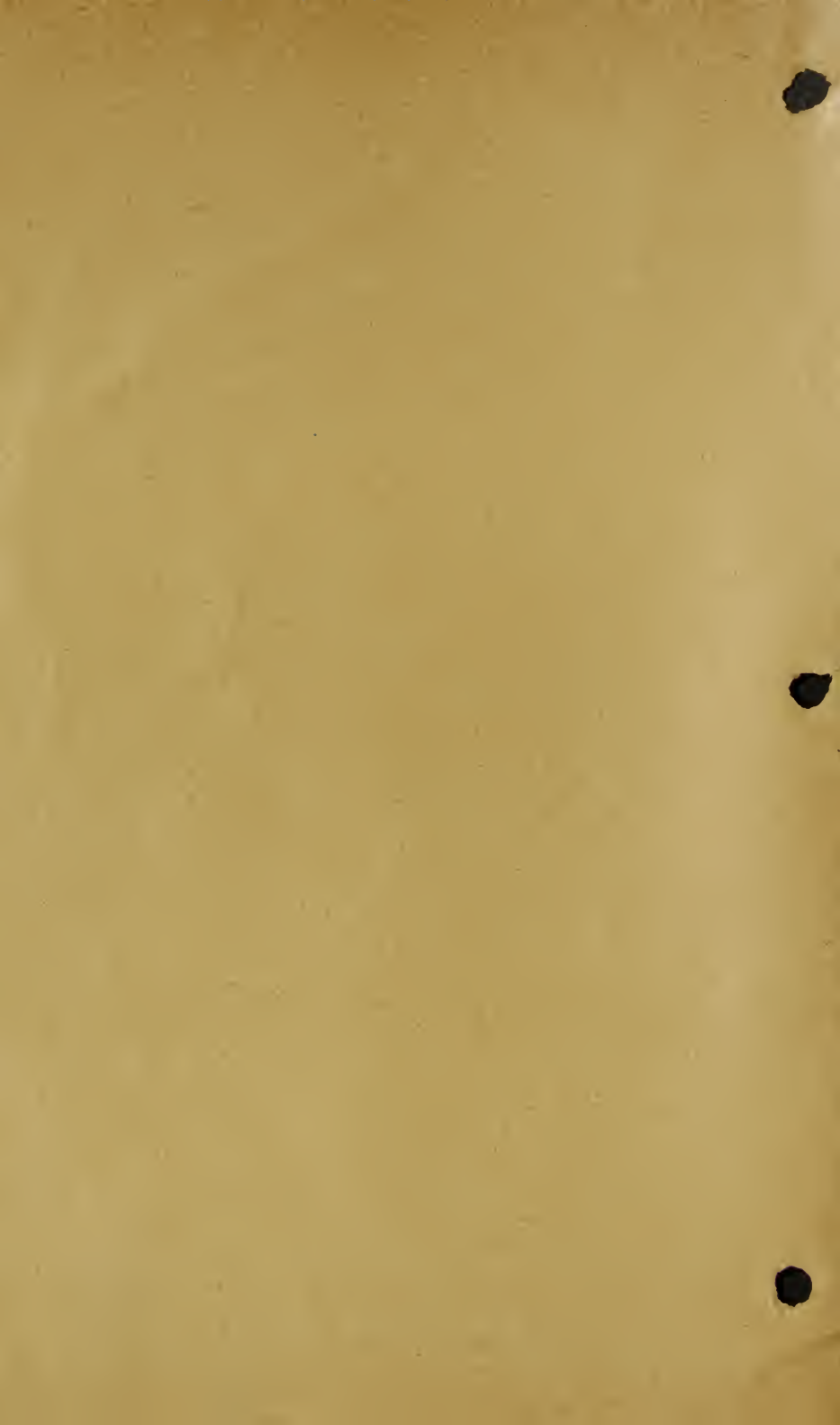

WILLIAMSBURG, MASS.

SCHOOL REPORT.

1895.

1894



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

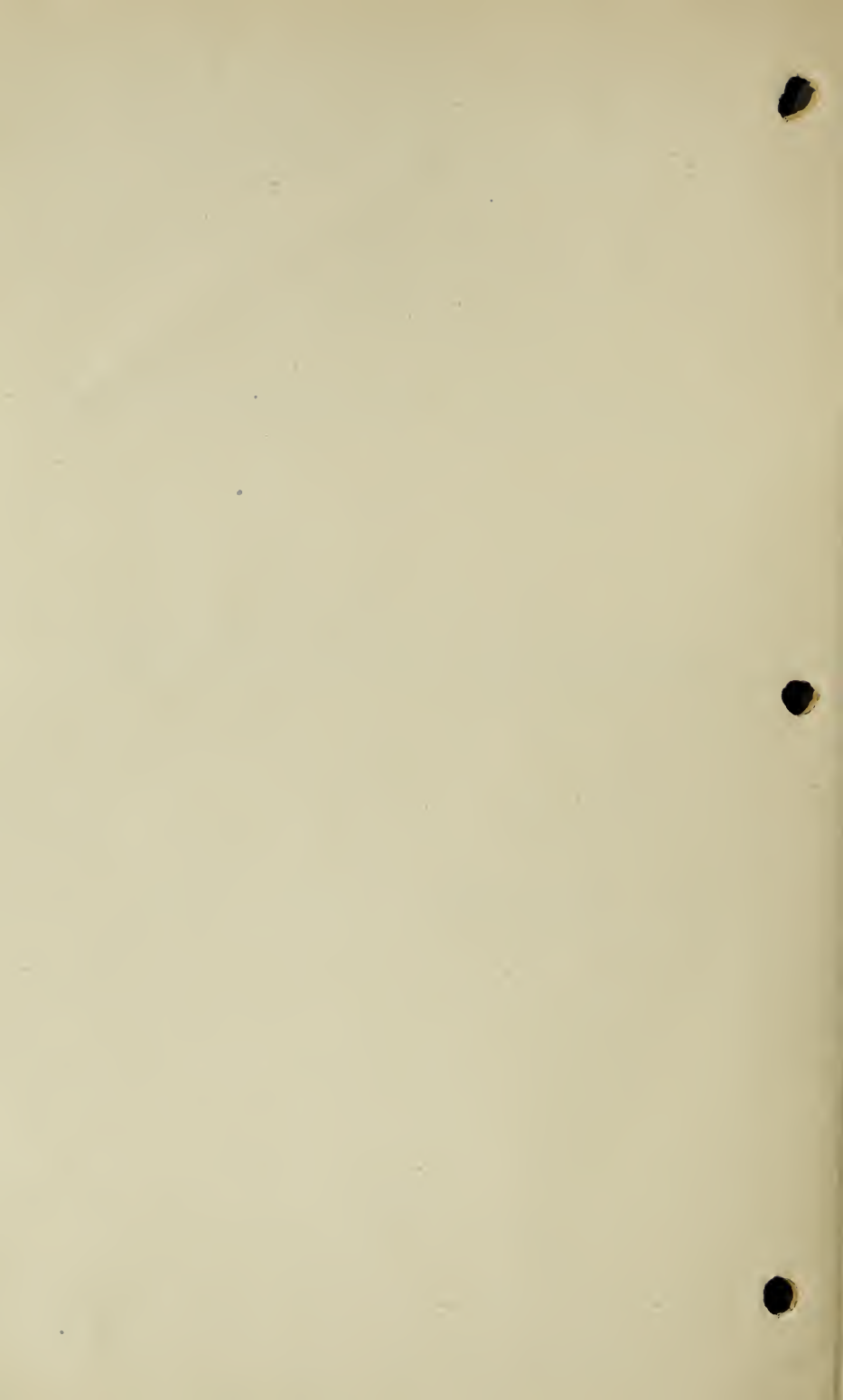
OF

TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1895.

NORTHAMPTON, MASS.:
PRESS OF GAZETTE PRINTING CO.
1895.



REPORT.

To the Citizens of Williamsburg:

The following report is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

SCHOOLS.

Fifteen schools have been maintained during the year with a total attendance of 482 pupils. The number of scholars attending our schools has steadily increased for several years and is now the largest probably that it has ever been. The average attendance has improved and we have had a larger number of visitors than formerly, which is most desirable. There is no greater stimulus to pupils and teachers than the frequent visits of the people of the town. We advise the closing of the school at Searsville for the spring term at least and the transportation of the pupils to the schools at the center. There are enough pupils in the district to make a good school, but as many of the parents prefer to transport their children to the center themselves rather than to have them attend in the district, and have done so this last winter reducing the number attending at Searsville to five, it seems best to close the school for the present.

The school on Petticoat Hill has not been opened during the year, the pupils having been transported to the center at a small saving of money, with excellent results.

We believe that the schools have not been more uniformly good for many years than at present and trust that the generosity of the town and the efforts of the officers and superintendent will be continued to maintain this high standard in this most

important interest of the town. The following are the names of pupils neither absent nor tardy during the year, Mabel Damon, Mary Dolan, Maggie Ryan, Mamie Welch, Harold Buck.

TEXT BOOKS AND SUPPLIES.

The increase in the number of pupils has required an increased number of books and supplies. Every effort is made for economy in the use of paper, pencils, crayon, ink, and purchases are made in quantities of wholesale dealers to obtain the very best prices possible. In buying books the committee has availed itself of the knowledge of our superintendent to buy the best books suited to our needs at the lowest prices, and by his aid have saved many dollars to the town. Nevertheless the amount is large as it must needs be when we consider that 482 pupils have everything supplied to them for the year. The cost per pupil last year was a fraction less than 78 cents and the total amount \$340.92.

REPAIRS.

Every year brings the necessity of repairs in public buildings as well as on our private property.

The cyclone which nearly demolished the South street school house was not expected and the outlay required to replace the roof and chimney, an expense not reckoned on. The school house at Mountain St. was also reshingled and considerable work done inside, plastering and cleaning. Early in the fall many complaints were received that the arrangements for warming and ventilating the center school house were bad and unhealthy.

An examination by the committee showed that the complaints were well founded ; the stoves did not distribute the heat equally and there was practically no ventilation. As the statute instructs the school committee to see that a proper place is provided in which to keep school, your committee decided to replace the old stoves with jacketed stoves, with an adequate ventilating arrangement. This has been done at an expense of \$375.00 and is entirely satisfactory to your committee. The jacketed stoves with the ventilating shaft for an exhaust furnish the rooms

with a constant supply of fresh warm air equally distributed throughout the room to the great comfort and health of teachers and pupils.

The condition of the outside of our center building at Haydensville demands attention, and we recommend that the town raise and appropriate a sum sufficient to clapboard and paint the building which needs it very much.

SUPERINTENDENT.

We have been fortunate in retaining the services of Mr. E. W. Goodhue as superintendent, and to him in large degree is due the credit of the excellence of our schools.

The net cost to the town has been \$121.62, and there is no money raised by the town which yields so valuable a return for the amount expended as this which secures for us a superintendent of schools.

We recommend the following appropriations for the ensuing year :

Schools,	\$3,300 00
Superintendent,	350 00
Text Books and Supplies,	300 00
Repairs,	200 00
High Schools,	100 00

Respectfully submitted,

W. M. PURRINGTON,	} <i>School</i>
FANNIE J. CLARY,	
FRANCIS PORTER,	

Superintendent's Report.

To the School Committee of Williamsburg:

The report of your Superintendent of Schools for the past year is respectfully submitted herewith:

The general condition of the schools in the district remains about the same as during last year, they are doing good work and, with few exceptions elsewhere noted, have been profitable and progressive.

It is with great difficulty that the schools in a district like this can be raised above a certain degree of efficiency owing to seemingly unavoidable and opposing circumstances. Among these may be mentioned : (1) the constant change of teachers ; (2) the irregularity of attendance ; (3) the location of the schools ; (4) the shortness of the school year. It is not intended to enter into a discussion of these various hindrances in this report, but attention is called to them that all due allowance may be made, when comparing our schools with others more fortunate, and that, so far as possible, they may be remedied. While this report was preparing, a gentleman of wide experience in educational affairs and a former superintendent in central Massachusetts, came into the office and made this remark, which, if borne out by facts, is very encouraging, "It is a fact that our country schools are driving the city schools."

COST OF SCHOOLS.

It may be well to speak of the matter of expense as there seems to be an opinion with some that the cost of maintaining

the schools has greatly increased. It is acknowledged that there has been an increase, but the comparison made below between different years will show that it is not great, and, if the results are of a character to warrant the outlay, then it has been in direct accordance with true school economy. Parents and pupils demand more from the schools than ever before, and it is absolutely necessary that they keep pace with progress in other directions, while the changing conditions of life are constantly increasing their responsibilities. They are expected to give that education upon which skilled production depends, and the possibility of our State's holding its present leading position among her sister states is dependent upon the skill of her citizens in producing. If Massachusetts has become one of the wealthiest of states because of her liberality in the education of her citizens, then the schools should share in the wealth they have helped to produce.

Comparison of the Expense of Supporting Schools for the years 1890-1 and 1894-5.

	1890-1.	1894-5.
Williamsburg,	\$5,591 98	\$5,722 00
Conway,	3,352 49	3,488 55
Whately,	1,824 32	2,021 76

WILLIAMSBURG SCHOOL.

It affords your superintendent much pleasure to render so excellent a report of the town schools. The work has gone on steadily and generally satisfactorily in them. It should be a source of pride to our citizens that the schools are favorably known away from home as well as here. There have been many visitors from other towns and the praise bestowed by some of them was gratifying and deserved. It is not to be supposed that all schools in any town can be of equal excellence, for change of teachers, irregularity of attendance, and lack of interest in education in the home, are more common in some localities than in others. Many of the parents residing in the out neighborhoods have decided that better work can be done in the center schools than elsewhere, and are anxious to place their children in them. This is a most encouraging sign and proves

that our people need only to have proof of the value of such a course of action before adopting it.

The change in the course of study to admit of more thorough work preparatory to entering the high schools has proved wise, and will serve to improve the scholarship in them. The present programs of work in these schools adopted by the committee, will also tend to the same result. The Williamsburg Village Schools have increased in numbers, and ever since your superintendent has had charge of them, has their character been so uniformly good.

The interest and studiousness of the pupils, the regularity of attendance, and good discipline commend them to all. The same might be said of Haydenville could the same interest and enthusiasm be aroused among parents and pupils. With equally skilled teaching, it has not been possible to secure equal results. The fault is not with the many, but with the few who are yet numerous enough to make the difference. The physical exercise introduced by Prin. Record and adopted in several rooms has proved more beneficial than the dumb-bell exercise formerly in use; combined with the manual of arms it has already produced more erect positions in recitations and elsewhere, more prompt obedience and increased regard for discipline.

The following table contains statistics of general interest.

SCHOOLS.	No. of Weeks.	No. Boys Enrolled.	No. Girls Enrolled.	No. of Scholars Registered.	Total Attendance In Days.	Average Membership.	Average Attendance.	Per cent of Attendance.	No. Tardy Marks.	No. of Dismissals.	No. Days Lost by Tardiness and Dismissal.	No. of Visitors.	No. not absent.
High,	36	9	17	40	4772.5	27.60	26.50	95.77	260	210	11.95	105	2
Intermediate,	32	12	24	46	4254.00	28.76	26.60	92.49	341	255	52.31	68	0
Primary,	32	19	22	49	4004.50	27.23	24.86	91.30	140	15	4.11	83	0
Scarsville,	32	10	9	19	1347.50	9.57	8.23	86.	65	79	7.88	32	0
Skinnerville,	32	6	8	14	1930.	12.63	10.99	87.	10	31	6.41	33	3
North Street,	32	11	7	18	1935.	12.88	12.03	93.40	43	8	1.83	51	0
Nash Street,	32	8	13	21	1812.50	12.76	11.29	88.44	45	83	14.33	36	0
South Street,	32	8	8	16	1905.	12.58	11.94	94.83	70	28	7.29	28	0
Mountain Street,	32	5	15	20	2461.50	16.58	15.32	94.21	29	27	.95	69	0
<i>Haydenville.</i>													
High,	36	12	20	41	4406.	25.87	24.07	93.04		148	23.44	44	0
Grammar,	34	23	17	58	6227.	39.83	36.63	91.96	149	178	37.18	41	0
Intermediate,	32	23	14	58	5189.50	35.86	32.64	91.02	60	109	21.62	41	0
Second Primary,	32	24	26	69	6221.50	42.51	38.73	91.18	98	47	7.40	43	0
Maple St. Prim.,	32	31	26	59	5776.50	39.55	35.24	89.10	334	40	6.32	44	0
Purrrington Prim.,	32	27	28	55	5658.	38.33	35.46	92.35	134	18	7.21	40	0
Totals,		228	254	583	57,901.				1914	1276	210.23	758	5

TEACHERS.

It will readily be understood from the foregoing general report that little need be said under this heading. Several changes have been necessary and we were obliged to part with one of best teachers who had been with us for years. It was with the greatest reluctance that this was done, but the salary offered elsewhere could not be paid here. The committee has been very fortunate in securing new teachers and some bid fair to prove far above the average. Our teachers are faithful, diligent workers and are returning full value for every dollar paid them. If it may seem that some are deserving of criticism, it is well to fully understand the circumstances before criticising.

HOUSES.

There has been less damage to buildings from carelessness or vandalism than usual, increased interest in work, respect for authority and a desire to do right have increased respect for public property.

One of the out school houses, unfortunately, stood in the path of a cyclone and, as a consequence, lost its roof and suffered other damage thus causing considerable unexpected expense for repairs. The house is in poor condition now. The wisdom of the town in building the new houses is quite apparent, a good sized and profitable school having been maintained at North Street, a thing not possible under former conditions. The Haydenville house was an absolute necessity, as the attendance this year has proved. It is a fact that visitors to our town receive wrong impressions of our industry and the character of the people, because of the disreputable appearance of our village school buildings. They certainly are not ornamental or in keeping with the character of the residents. It will soon be absolutely necessary to have them repaired and painted at least. The rooms in the Haydenville building are practically unfit for school purposes because of the need of repairs, want of ventilation and adequate light. A new high school building located so as to accommodate both villages would save money and, at a less expense than now, give us a school as good as any in the county.

The improvement in heating and ventilating the Williamsburg house is one of the most valuable made for a long time, and the action of the committee in the matter worthy of commendation. It had become evident that something must be done at once as parents were threatening to remove their children from school unless the rooms could be better heated and ventilated. The old stoves were nearly unfit for service and never sufficient and, new and improved ones were wisely put in their places. The wonderful improvement can be fully appreciated only by those compelled to pass even an hour in the poisonous and stifling atmosphere of the lower rooms previous to the change. The only method of renewing the air was by opening doors or windows, thus endangering the children. At present, the air is almost as fresh and pure as that outside. From experience made in Conway and elsewhere, it is found that the amount of fuel consumed is barely increased, when it is properly prepared and cared for. The system has been tried at some disadvantage here, owing to the poor wood, yet it has proved a success.

ATTENDANCE.

In most schools the attendance has been rather better than usual, but there are still some cases of persistent disregard of the law and defiance of its requirements. Where such cases exist they should be dealt with promptly, no deceptive excuse or fear of individual condemnation should be permitted to nullify the plain intent of the law. It is an injustice to those who furnish the money to pay for the education of the children, and a disgrace to a town, under the present efficient and convenient school system that any person of ordinary ability should be permitted to reach the age of manhood or womanhood without a common school education. The General Court realizing the necessity of more rigid legislation in this matter recently enacted the following at its last session:—

“Every person having under his control a child between the ages of eight and fourteen years, * * * * * shall annually cause such child to attend some public day school in the city or town in which he resides, for at least *thirty weeks* if

the schools are kept open that length of time, with an allowance of two weeks' time for absences not excused by the superintendent of schools or the school committee; such period of attendance *shall begin within the first month of the fall term of school* and for *each five days* of absence of any such child thereafter, in excess of the above allowance, before the completion of the required annual attendance of thirty weeks, the person having such child under his control shall upon the complaint of the school committee or any truant officer, forfeit to the use of the public schools of such city or town a sum not exceeding twenty dollars." It will be noticed that a separate action can be brought for each five days of absence.

THE WORK.

The schools are now sufficiently systematized and the course of study so well adapted to them as to insure regular and thorough work. There seems to be increased desire on the part of pupils to complete the course, and the high schools have received many scholars from the out schools. More attention has been paid to the fitness of the individual for advancement before entering higher classes than ever before, and a uniform standard of scholarship is required for promotion regardless of outside influence. To obtain the best results, pupils must feel assured that all are to have an equal chance, and that promotions are based on actual fitness, and that present work must be completed satisfactorily before other can be taken. It is to be regretted that special instruction in music could not be continued at Haydenville, it should be given in all schools. In making comparisons with city schools, it is well to remember that our scholars are expected to do about the same amount of work in a school year of thirty-two weeks or less that is done in them in thirty-six or forty. The school year ought not to be less than thirty-six weeks, and it is to be hoped that it may not be, in the near future. Your superintendent is not fully in accord with those who would crowd the common school curriculum with more branches of study, and place French, German, Latin, Geometry, etc. there, that a small minority may be fitted for college the sooner. It is a fact that by far the larger number of our pupils

go from the school-room to the shop, the store, the counting-house or the farm, and they should not suffer for the few. It is, in his opinion, of far more importance that the average boy or girl be able to read a book or paper understandingly, to write a neat, intelligible letter without misspelling words than to be able to conjugate a Latin verb or to stumble through a page of milk-and-water German with the aid of the omnipresent dictionary. We are trying to teach our pupils to think, read, write and spell and are meeting with fair success in these branches.

Said Edward Everett, in an address at the dedication of a high school building at Cambridge, in 1843, "I hold, sir, that to read the English language well, that is, with intelligence, feeling, spirit, and effect; to write with despatch, a neat, handsome, legible hand, (for it is, after all, a great object in writing to have others able to read what you write :) and to be master of the four rules of arithmetic, so as to dispose at once with accuracy of every question of figures which comes up in practical life,—I say, I call this a good education; and if you add the ability to write pure grammatical English, with the help of very few hard words, I regard it as an excellent education. These are the tools. You can do much with them, but you are helpless without them. They are the foundation; and unless you begin with these, all your flashy attainments, a little natural philosophy, and a little mental philosophy, a little physiology, and a little geology, and all the other *ologies* and *osophies*, are but ostentatious rubbish."

TEACHERS' MEETINGS.

A very profitable and successful district meeting was held at Conway, May 22nd. State Agents Fletcher and Bailey, and Supt's. Hall and Day gave valuable lessons on various subjects. Clay modelling was illustrated with a class from the Conway Primary School under the direction of the teacher, Miss Wiswall. Every teacher in the district was present, and samples of the scholars' work in drawing, moulding, color and nature work, weaving, writing, spelling, composition etc., were exhibited from all schools. Many citizens and friends from neighboring towns were present and all expressed themselves as much pleased with

the correctness, neatness and taste of the work shown. Regular teachers' meetings in the town, have been held as usual. Supt. Hall of Shelburne Falls, Revs. H. S. Snyder and G. W. Clarke and others have given interesting and helpful talks in addition to the regular programs. These meetings are held once a month at 4 o'clock P. M., thus not conflicting with school work to any extent yet making it convenient for all to attend.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

As the Searsville School has practically removed itself to the village, it is recommended that the school be discontinued and the pupils transported to the Center, for the present.

It is also recommended that the school-rooms in the village buildings be made presentable and more attractive by the liberal use of paint and whitewash. That the much needed repairs on Haydenville house be made as soon as possible. That some arrangement for the uniting of the high schools be considered at least. That examination of all teachers not holding certificates of graduation from a normal school be insisted upon.

In closing this report your superintendent would say that, on the whole, the schools have never been better in this town, within his knowledge. Thanking the committee for the cordial support rendered, for the earnest progressive spirit ever shown, and the citizens for the interest manifested and encouragement given, this report is respectfully submitted.

E. W. GOODHUE,

Superintendent of Schools.

Truant Officer's Report.

To the School Committee of Williamsburg :

Number of scholars taken to school,	8
Number arrested and taken to school,	1
Number taken from ice and streets and sent to school,	28
Families visited,	13
	—
Total,	50

Respectfully submitted,

H. W. SAMPSON.

HAYDENVILLE, Feb. 25, 1895.

Treasurer's Report

For the Year ending March 1st, 1893.

RECEIPTS.

Town appropriation for schools,	\$3,300 00	
“ “ “ text books,	300 00	
“ “ “ superintendent,	300 00	
“ “ “ repairs,	200 00	
“ “ “ extra four weeks,	100 00	
Income of Collins Fund,	787 62	
“ State School Fund,	345 08	
“ State Superintendency,	217 53	
Received from Dog Tax,	118 48	
“ “ Conway, for tuition,	53 25	
“ “ supplies sold,	39	
		\$5,722 35

EXPENDITURES.

For Teachers,	\$4,068 50	
Janitors,	204 00	
Fuel,	248 02	
Books and Supplies,	340 92	
Labor and repairs,	152 70	
Cleaning school houses,	33 95	
Superintendent,	339 15	
Miscellaneous bills,	293 48	
Balance due Fannie J. Clary from 1894,	18 15	
Balance on hand,	23 47	
		5,722 35

PAID FOR TEACHERS.

Williamsburg High School, John M. Rowell,	\$468 00	
“ Intermediate, Mary A. Barrus,	256 00	
“ Primary, Hattie L. Yeomans,	256 00	
Haydenville High School, C. L. Randall,	182 00	
“ “ “ Louis D. Record,	322 00	
“ Grammar, L. Ada Baker,	240 00	
“ “ Margaret Carter,	100 00	
“ Intermediate, Jane Pease,	88 00	
“ “ Nellie Campbell,	168 00	
“ 2d Primary, Josephine Courtright,	256 00	
“ 1st Primary, Mary Robinson,	256 00	
“ Purrington Primary, Lizzie		
“ Purrington,	256 00	
Skinnaville, Janette Hawley,	60 00	
“ Eleanor Maloney,	126 00	
Mountain Street, Myrtie G. Thayer,	208 00	
North District, Mary A. Long,	66 00	
“ “ Nellie G. Ryan,	126 00	
Searsville, L. May Huntley,	78 50	
“ Lucy Sanderson,	126 00	
South Street, Mrs. H. G. Curtis,	208 00	
Nash Street, Elizabeth Ames,	192 00	
High School, Haydenville, assistant, Hattie		
Lawrence,	30 00	
		\$4,068 50

JANITORS.

Haydenville Village, 6 rooms,	\$111 75	
Williamsburg Village, 3 rooms,	58 25	
Out schools,	34 00	
		\$204 00

CLEANING SCHOOL HOUSES.

Haydenville Village,	\$10 00	
Williamsburg Village,	14 15	
Out schools,	9 80	
		\$33 95

FUEL.

John Phinney coal,	\$150 07	
W. E. Pillinger, wood,	10 00	
H. H. Tilton, “	14 75	
Oliver Nash, “	9 00	
Alanson Nash, “	13 00	
J. S. Graves, “	4 00	
E. P. Hemingway, “	19 25	
G. M. Bradford, “	11 45	
S. A. Clark, “	4 50	
E. T. Barrus, “	12 00	
		\$248 02

LABOR AND REPAIRS.

H. H. Tilton, labor,	\$8 35	
C. W. Hill, “	1 00	
Sereno Clark, labor sawing wood,	3 50	
H. L. Richardson, labor and material,	3 71	
Geo. L. Thrasher, labor South St.,	6 63	
John Williams, labor,	1 15	
A. P. Miller, labor South St.,	7 75	
Fred Graves, “ “	5 75	
Warner Bradley, labor Mountain St.,	44 70	
H. W. Sampson, labor and material,	28 60	
William Warner, labor Mountain St.,	2 00	
Christopher Truehart, labor,	14 05	
J. H. O'Brien, irons,	2 00	
H. A. Ives, repairs,	1 50	
F. M. Holmes, “	5 52	
R. F. Burke, “	1 50	
J. R. Tarbox, labor,	3 00	
H. Warner, grading,	2 00	
M. P. Purrington, labor,	6 75	
M. P. Dolan, cutting wood,	3 25	
		\$152 71

BOOKS AND SUPPLIES.

Ginn & Co.,	\$64 07	
Silver, Burdette & Co.,	45 33	
Forbes & Wallace,	5 00	
Houghton, Mifflin & Co.,	5 26	
American Book Co.,	37 29	
Smith & White, paper,	60 06	
University Publishing Co.,	7 27	
Geo. F. King & Merrill,	8 55	
Educational Pub. Co.,	67	
Potter & Putnam,	3 60	
Geo. E. Russell, crayon,	12 05	
Donohue & Henneberry, ink,	1 75	
S. E. Bridgman,	3 50	
D. C. Heath,	16 33	
Boston School Supply Co.,	4 50	
George S. Perry,	12 03	
Milton Bradley & Co.,	10 33	
Edward Baab,	4 01	
Leach, Shewell & Sanborn,	18 77	
Springfield News Co.,	7 88	
E, W. Goodhue, bill,	12 67	
	— —	\$340 92

MISCELLANEOUS.

H. W. Sampson, truant officer,	\$10 00
E. W. Goodhue, bill stationery and postage,	4 03
G. M. Bradford, lumber,	2 14
John Burr, transporting pupils,	40 00
L. D. James, bill,	2 75
Graves Bros.,	2 43
H. E. Smith Co., wands,	7 40
Geo. Field, barn rent,	1 75
J. M. Skiff, clocks,	2 20
John Leitch, programs,	1 60
William Fenton, clocks,	18 00
F. E. White, express,	3 96
C. C. Connell, orchestra,	7 50

F. Sherwin & Son, 300 course of study,	2 00	
“ “ promotion blanks,	2 00	
Thomas Culver, transporting pupils,	20 00	
A. G. Cone, bill,	1 95	
Geo. L. Munn, programs,	2 50	
James Spear, brooms,	4 00	
E. T. Barrus, bill pencils,	6 75	
Alvan Shaw, transporting pupils,	68 90	
Mrs. Geo. Loomis, mending flag,	25	
Telegraph and telephone,	70	
F. J. Clary, postage,	1 30	
E. W. Goodhue, midget stamp,	1 00	
D. E. Clary, ctge of desks from Sunderland,	1 50	
Geo. Ames, bill,	26 90	
E. T. Barrus, lumber and shingles,	8 07	
“ “ bill sundries,	14 70	
John Handfield, bill,	14 67	
Smith & Fay, “	4 69	
C. D. Waite, jar,	35	
W. D. Smith, bill,	75	
W. M. Purrington,	2 90	
Haydenville Mfg Co.,	1 00	
Freight and express,	2 34	
Mr. L. DeW. Record, books,	50	
		\$293 48

SUPERINTENDENT.

E. W. Goodhue, Month of Feb.,	1894,	\$32 63
“ “ “	March, 1894,	32 63
“ “ “	April, 1894,	32 63
“ “ “	May, 1894,	32 63
“ “ “	June, 1894,	32 63
“ “ “	Sept., 1894,	35 20
“ “ “	Oct., 1894,	35 20
“ “ “	Nov., 1894,	35 20
“ “ “	Dec., 1894,	35 20
“ “ “	Jan., 1895,	35 20
		\$339 15

OUTSTANDING BILLS.

Due E. W. Goodhue, July 1st, 1895,	\$176 00
A. M. Shaw,	32 50
Thomas Culver,	20 00

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. FANNIE J. CLARY, *Treas.*

